REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-26 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 21, and 26 are amended. As a result, claims 1-26 are pending for examination with claims 1 and 18 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26, including independent claims 1 and 18, under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,176,535 (Redmond). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but nonetheless has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to further distinguish Redmond. Claims 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 21, and 26 are also amended to make them consistent with the amended claims from which they depend, to address informalities within the claims, and/or to more fully recite aspects of the corresponding inventions.

In rejecting claim 18, the Examiner acknowledged that Redmond fails to disclose the claimed method of making an electrical contact, but asserted that the method of making is inherent. Applicants respectfully disagree, and assert that to be inherent, the claimed method of making would have to necessarily follow from the Redmond disclosure. Assuming, for the sake of argument only, that the connectors of Redmond could be made according to the claimed method – it would still not necessarily follow that they are made in such a manner.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method of making an electrical connector. The method comprises, among other acts, weaving at least one conductor with at least one loading fiber to define a woven connector The at least one conductor has distinct contact points along a length thereof that are adapted to engage in a sliding manner with a mating conductor of a mating connector. The method also comprises anchoring the at least one loading fiber, such that when at least one of the distinct contact points is engaged in the sliding manner with the mating conductor, the at least one loading fiber is tensioned so as to provide a contact force between the at least one of the distinct contact points and the mating conductor.

Independent claim 18 is directed to a method of establishing an electrical connection. The method comprises providing a connector having at least one conductor interwoven with at least one loading fiber, where the at least one conductor has distinct contact points adapted to contact a mating conductor of a mating connector. The method also comprises engaging at least

one of the distinct contact points with the mating conductor in a sliding manner to establish the electrical connection and tensioning the at least one loading fiber to provide a contact force between the at least one of the distinct contact points and the mating conductor to maintain the electrical connection.

Redmond is directed to various embodiments of electrical connectors and cables that place conductive strands in bending or compression as they are engaged with mating connectors. Although Redmond may disclose connectors that create contact forces between conductors, it does not disclose or teach tensioning loading fibers as claimed by the Applicant.

Of the various embodiments disclosed by Redmond, only those of Figs. 12-14 could possibly be considered to disclose weaving a conductor and a loading fiber to form a woven connector. The remaining embodiments are distinguished by independent claims 1 and 18, at least because such embodiments lack these claimed aspects.

The embodiment of Figs. 12-14 includes a cable 70 adapted to be mated to a printed circuit board 100 by a housing 78 that clamps the cable to the board. (see generally, Col. 7, Lines 36-43). Engagement in this manner compresses the wires 54, film 72, and filaments 57 of the cable, thereby providing contact forces between conductors of the board 100 and contact points 60 of the cable. In this regard, contact forces are provided to the contact points as the elements of the cable are sandwiched and compressed – the method of Redmond does not involve tensioning of loading fibers, as is now recited in claims 1 and 18. Redmond is clear on this issue: as stated at col. 7, lines 44-47, "[T]he spring action of the individual wires 54 is accompanied by compression of the plastic fibers 57 ..." (emphasis added).

Assuming for the sake of argument only that the filaments of Redmond are placed in tension, contact points (60) of the connector shown in Figs. 12-14 are not engaged in a sliding manner with a mating conductor, as claims 1 and 18 have been amended to recite. As described above, the cable and housing of Redmond are engaged by compressing the cable between the housing and the board, such as by locking it down with fasteners 82 – and not in a sliding manner.

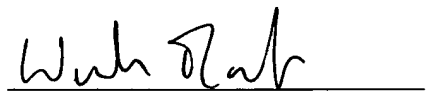
For at least the above described reasons, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 18, and any claims depending therefrom, is improper. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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